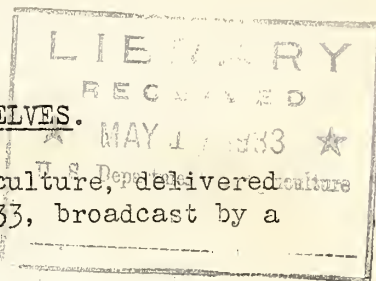


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TEACHING NEGRO 4-H CLUB MEMBERS TO THINK FOR THEMSELVES.



A radio talk by J. B. Pierce, U. S. Department of Agriculture, delivered in the National 4-H Club radio program, Saturday, April 1, 1933, broadcast by a network of 59 associate NBC radio stations.

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Negro boys and girls enrolled in 4-H Club work in the southern states are learning to think for themselves. They assist in organizing and conducting their 4-H Club activities, among which are conducting business and social meetings, planning and completing project work in better methods of farming, home making and living, participation in wholesome recreation, and helping to make conditions in general better in their community, county, and state.

The following examples of achievements during 1932 will give an idea of how 4-H boys and girls learn to think for themselves:

Leon Harrison, Florence County, South Carolina, has been in 4-H Club work for 4 years. At first he was not interested in club work, and it was not until he saw the corn demonstration yield of one of his chums that he enrolled in 4-H Club activities. Since then he has been one of the leading members in the county. In 1930 he won first prize on his corn yield and decided he could get even better yields at lower costs. Through following a good system of cropping the soil he increased its fertility, and by thorough preparation of the seed bed, right use of commercial fertilizer, pure bred seed, and good cultural practices, he produced 154 bushels of corn on 2 acres at a cost of 17 cents per bushel. His yield was 45 bushels more per acre than his neighbor's yield under ordinary practices. Harrison is hailed as the 4-H Corn King in the county.

Sarah Kennedy, Richland County, South Carolina, in the home improvement work had 12 chickens and a one-fourth acre garden for financing her project, and from the sale of eggs and vegetables she was able to buy wall paper and other material for a bed room and living room. She made a paste of flour and water and put the paper on the walls almost as smoothly as a skilled paper hanger. Fearing she could not make a neat job papering the ceiling, she hitched up the horse and drove to a clay quarry seven miles away to get some clay. She then mixed the clay with salt, boiling water, and bluing and painted the ceiling, which gave a beautiful pale blue cast that resembled paint so much one had to feel it to tell the difference.

She draped fruit crates in making some of the furniture for both rooms. Rugs were made from bags and crocus sacks, and the window curtains were made from muslin she tie-dyed. Sarah's home now has two rooms that are beautiful, attractive, and comfortable.

Joe Neal, Guilford County, North Carolina, planned and carried out the following enterprises: 2 acres of corn, 3/4 acre truck crops, 1 brood sow, and 20 chickens. In the truck patch he grew beans, sweet potatoes, peanuts, squash, peas, and salad greens. In spite of the fact that the season was very dry, he realized \$90.30 from his products. He was the first 4-H Club boy in his community to install a farm shop, build a modern hog house, purchase a pure bred Poland

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China gilt, own a small poultry flock, and truck on a commercial basis. At the community fair he took first place in best exhibit of corn, sweet potatoes, and peanuts, and as prizes for these he received 100 cabbage plants, a saw, hammer, rule, and nails. He was the first president of his 4-H Club and represented it at the State Short Course.

The 4-H boys and girls of the Hunt family of Madison County, Tennessee, planned and remodeled their home. The back porch located between the kitchen and the boys' bed room was made into a dining room; the hall that separated the other two bed rooms was converted into a living room; and then they papered all of the rooms in the house. The remodeling has relieved the crowded conditions of this family of eleven, and the home is more attractive and comfortable.

Alvin Jones, Shelby County, Tennessee, produced 420 bushels of corn on 5 acres of highly productive land at a cost of 13 cents per bushel. Alvin has been a 4-H Club member for three years, and during this time he has excelled the other corn growing members of his club. Last year in order to extend his achievements he arranged for a contest with his father, P. H. Jones. Both selected 5 similar acres that were measured for the contest, and in this effort Alvin produced 84 bushels per acre by applying the lessons learned in 4-H Club work, while his Dad produced 58 bushels per acre by following his usual cultural practices. Alvin has not only learned how to produce corn, but has realized that he can make some money growing corn even when it is sold at 35 cents per bushel, and his Dad is now a convert to 4-H methods in corn production.
